

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Jennifer Hanthorn, 26, Janesville, pleaded guilty yesterday in U.S. District Court in Madison to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.

From April 2004 until March 30, 2007, Hanthorn conspired with Jerome Hughes, Lorenzo Taylor, John Dunn, and Jennifer Zweifel to possess and to distribute crack cocaine in Rockford, Illinois, and in Janesville and Beloit. Hanthorn admitted that she and other members of the conspiracy traveled from Wisconsin on several occasions to meet Taylor in Rockford where he provided the crack cocaine to be sold in Wisconsin. She also admitted that she controlled the money from drug transactions for Hughes while he was incarcerated in the Wisconsin prison system.

U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz scheduled sentencing for October 11, 2007. Hanthorn faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison.

The charges against Hanthorn were the result of an investigation conducted by the Rock County Safe Streets Task Force comprised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Drug

Enforcement Administration; the Rock County Sheriff's Department; the Beloit Police Department; the Janesville Police Department; and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau. To date, a total of 39 defendants have been sentenced for federal drug and gun charges resulting from Task Force investigations. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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